As regards admission into the College Hostel, it is the policy of Government to admit students from all communities. Arrangements are accordingly being made in the new Hostel that is being built.

As regards your request to select one of your men for training in agriculture, I may tell you that a Board has been constituted with the Director of Agriculture and one or two non-official gentlemen as members for selecting eight young men who will be sent to the Agricultural College at Poona and Nagpur for undergoing the prescribed course of training. The fact will be advertised. If there are qualified men in your community, they may appear before the Board, and if the Board selects your men, I shall be very glad.

Member.—When there are many applicants with equal qualifications, our men cannot succeed. So it is that I say that some preference should be shown to our men.

Dewan.—We cannot be giving preference to each and every community. The Board is a responsible body. Why can not your men appear before the Board along with others? You may explain to the Board the condition of your community.

In regard to promotions and confirmations, the principle of Government has been and is that representation of all classes of people should be considered in the matter of recruitment. But when a man has been appointed, his confirmation and promotion should depend entirely on seniority and merit. He will not be promoted merely because he is a member of this community or that. You say that the only graduate in your community has not been confirmed in his appointment. Perhaps, he is a junior in service who cannot in fairness be confirmed over the heads of other people. All that I can say is that we shall try to get qualified men from all communities, but their confirmation and promotion will depend upon merit, seniority and such other considerations.

102. Steps to improve education among the Mahomedans of Travancore by opening more Mahomedan schools, employing only Mahomedan teachers in those schools, granting more scholarships and teaching industrial subjects.

Sahib Bahadur G. Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated) urged that schools should be opened in every Mahomedan village at Government cost for both boys and girls of the Mahomedan community. He pointed out that Arabic munshis had not yet been appointed in several schools including purely Mahomedan schools, although the Government promised to do so more than two years ago. That was a serious defect calling for immediate remedy, since it deterred many Mahomedan pupils from seeking admission to schools. Another circumstance which detracted from the popularity of these schools was the inadequacy of the time allotted for the teaching of Arabic. Under a Government order, instruction in Arabic and the Koran was given for half an hour for the Mahomedan pupils in Classes I to IV together. At least one full period was required for the purpose every day, and the existing arrangement of devoting half an hour for the teaching of Arabic was unsatisfactory in every way. The Member complained that some of the headmasters of schools did not adhere to the rule regarding the noon-day interval on Fridays. In conclusion, he requested that Fridays and Saturdays be declared holidays for Mahomedan schools, that the Mahomedan Inspector be given more powers in regard to Mahomedan schools and the appointment of Arabic munshis, and that arrangements be made for imparting industrial education to Mahomedan pupils.

Dewan's reply.—Arabic munshis have not been appointed because no qualified men are available. You have referred to a Government order and said that it directs that instruction in Arabic and in the Koran should be given to all the classes together. It is not so. In the morning instruction is to be given to students of two classes and in the evening to the students of the remaining two. This is in the case of mixed schools where both Hindu and Mahomedan students are admitted. In purely Mahomedan schools Arabic is taught just like other subjects.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In regard to your suggestion to authorise the Mahomedan Inspector to dispose of matters relating to Mahomedan schools, his recommendations can only be disposed of by his superior officers until he gains more experience.

Your other suggestions will be considered.

103 Education.

Mr. P. Chellasami Chinnanania Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the people of Shencottah were deeply indebted to the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja for raising the standard of the English School, Shencottah, by opening Forms IV, V and VI in three successive years. In the whole taluk that was the only English school. As the strength of the school was steadily progressing, it was all the more necessary to have a lower grade English school as a feeder to it. A lower grade school might therefore be opened under departmental management at Ayikudi, situated in the midst of several flourishing Travancore villages, and only 8 miles distant from Shencottah. The opening of the lower grade English school would remove a long-felt want and would bring English education within the reach of all in the taluk. He added that the local inhabitants were quite ready to provide the necessary buildings and premises required for the purpose.

In regard to vernacular school education, he stated that it was very backward in the taluk and that the causes for the same should be looked into and removed and cat, vernacular education placed on a sound basis. According to the Member, the backmu, wardness was due to the circumstance that Tamil was the mother tongue of the people while Malayalam was the language taught in the school. Hence, it was highly necessary that Tamil should be taught in all the schools of the Shencottah taluk. Tamil should also be the medium of instruction and examinations should be conducted in Tamil, and instruction in Tamil must be made compulsory in the whole taluk. He further pointed out that, as the Court language was Malayalam, the parties, who were Tamilians, were not able to understand Malayalam, and made horrible mistakes. In order to avoid such occurrences, it was imperative that the Court language in the Shencottah taluk should be Tamil.

For the benefit of the large number of children who never attended a school, the Member also suggested that the Government might open an industrial school with agriculture, weaving and carpentry as the subjects to be taught.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to your proposal to start a lower grade English school at Ayikudi, the matter will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for investigation and remarks. If I may throw out a suggestion, I would ask you to start an aided school, as it can be accomplished much more quickly than a departmental school, since you say you are prepared to meet the expenditure on this account. Government will of course sanction the necessary grant.

I was not aware of the fact that Tamil is not taught in the vernacular schools in the Shencottah taluk. In the southern taluks of the State, Tamil is also taught. It is there optional either to read Tamil or Malayalam. Some such arrangement should be made in the Shencottah taluk also. The matter will be looked into.

It is not thought desirable to make Tamil a Court language. The question of introducing more than one Court language is a complicated and difficult one. But in fairness to the people of Shencottah taluk, facilities will be created for imparting instruction in Tamil in the schools there.

In regard to the industrial school, it is part of a problem the solution of which will take some time.

104. The present system of education, its defects and remedies.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) referred to the reports of the Education Expenditure Committee and the Vernacular Curricula Revision Committee and thanked the Government for their decision to convene

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly